

# Christ Lutheran Church

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## Quarterly Newsletter

Dear Members of Christ,

Christmas Eve arrived, and the church was beautiful! It was great to see the members come together and beautify the space for worship. It reveals the beauty and reverence that we have for the space and more importantly, beauty of Christmas where God reveals His Son to the world for all to see. What a mystery to see the Word made flesh, the power of the Most High coming upon a virgin, and the Son of God is lying in a manger. It was with great joy we worshipped the Almighty for the gift of His Son, but as the season changes, the decorations are taken down and put away.

Change of course is a good thing. As much as we enjoy the sights, and colors, and the readings of Christmas, Jesus' journey for our salvation has only just started with His humble birth. The color changes from white to green in the church even though outside, in the world, snow begins to fall to the ground. I will say that it was a very nice surprise for my wife and me that we only had to shovel twice the cold white substance that falls from the sky. We are very appreciative that most of the snow that falls has made a home up at Crater Lake. This is a change that is necessary. Like most places in the United States, we are experiencing a significant drought.

This can be a scary time for us. We don't know what this new year is going to bring. As people panic, Scripture is clear how this will all end. As we are in the end times and have been in the end times since Pentecost, there will be abnormalities when it comes to the weather and what happens on the earth. The unbelieving world will be worried about the outcome, but God tells us this is how it must be. Where do we find our comfort as the weather changes? We look to Scripture and see that as long as the world does exist, God is going to continue to provide for it.

God also ties the activities He does with the weather to what He does with His Word. We see that relationship by Isaiah the prophet. He explains that not only does God take care of the earth, even when it looks like it is just going to dry out, He also sends out His Word.

“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it” (Isaiah 55:10-11).

This is a beautiful text that fits the season that will soon come. We have been witnessing snow and rain. As it comes down to nourish the earth, Isaiah points out that God's Word does the same. The purpose of the Word is to go out into the world and to change hearts. We hear the

echo of the Great Commission. This is a great analogy that the prophet brings up because when the seasons change and when we see the results of living in this sinful world, the only place we can find our comfort is in hearing God's Word. God's Word goes out and accomplishes great things! The greatest of them all is when the Word became flesh and it dwelt among us.

We may be worried about what will happen to the church as the changes occur in the seasons, but Christ tells us that we do not need to worry about that either. The church will never be triumphed over. This does not mean that Christ Lutheran will stay here forever. It does mean that until the Day of Judgment comes, we can rejoice that the church will be there, even if it doesn't have the same outward appearance. As we watch the flowers grow in spring, we look to the positives that we have had. In the last few months, we have watched our church grow as well! We could grow fast, or maybe it is slow, or it could not happen at all, but we hear the sweet words of Isaiah assuring us God's Word does not go out empty. Like the snow and the rain, the Word of God is effective in taking care of the earth, changing hearts through the truth of the Gospel!

As the weather changes and spring is coming, with spring comes the celebration of Easter. This is the reason we gather every Sunday! As we prepare for this great holiday and look forward to the numerous Easter Lilies and decorations that will soon fill the church, of course if you have noticed, we have already started decorating! Even though the Christmas decorations have come down, and the church seems bare, during this season of Lent, there is something new in the church. A beautiful, wooden cross stands to the left of the pulpit draped in purple. It was created by Taylor's design and Randy Bednar brought it to life. We thank Jackie for the altar cloths and the fabric that drapes the two crosses in the front of church. It won't be long before our sojourning in the wilderness is over, the cross of Christ is raised for our Salvation, and the church comes to life once again with the beautiful decorations that point to the Resurrection of our Lord!

The end of the month will be very busy with Holy Week, and we look forward to seeing you at the services: Palm Sunday: 9:30AM, Maundy Thursday: 12PM with Holy Communion, Good Friday: 12PM, Easter Sunday: 8:30AM followed by Easter Breakfast: 9:30AM.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you,



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